

In the Claims:

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1.(Original) A coherent green state composite material comprising a plurality of cores of material selected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, cemented carbides, cemented nitrides, cemented carbonitrides and mixtures thereof, dispersed in a matrix, the matrix comprising the components for making an ultra-hard material and a suitable binder.

2.(Original) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the suitable binder is an organic binder.

3.(Original) A composite material according to claim 2, wherein the organic binder is selected from the group comprising camphor, methyl cellulose and polyethylene glycol.

4.(Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the components for making the ultra-hard material comprises a mass of ultra-hard abrasive particles and optionally a second phase comprising a solvent/catalyst or a precursor to a solvent/catalyst, in particulate form, for the ultra-hard abrasive particles.

5. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ultra-hard material is polycrystalline in nature.

6.(Original) A composite material according to claim 5, wherein the polycrystalline ultra-hard material is PCD or PcBN.

7. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cores are provided as individual particles or in the form of granules.

8.(Original) A method of producing a coherent green state composite material including the steps of:

- (i) providing a plurality of cores of material selected from a group comprising carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, cemented carbides, cemented nitrides, cemented carbonitrides and mixtures thereof;
- (ii) coating the cores with a source of the components for making an ultra-hard material and a suitable binder; and
- (iii) consolidating the coated cores to produce a coherent green state composite material in which the cores are dispersed in a matrix formed from the components and the binder.

9.(Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the suitable binder is an organic binder.

10.(Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the organic binder is selected from the group comprising camphor, methyl cellulose and polyethylene glycol.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, wherein the components for making the ultra-hard material comprises a mass of ultra-hard abrasive particles and optionally a second phase comprising a solvent/catalyst or a precursor to a solvent/catalyst, in particulate form, for the ultra-hard abrasive particles.

12.(Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, wherein the ultra-hard material is polycrystalline in nature.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polycrystalline ultra-hard material is PCD or PcBN.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tool component including the steps of:

- (i) providing a substrate;

- (ii) providing a coherent green state composite material as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1;
- (iii) placing a layer of the coherent green state composite material on a surface of the substrate to produce an unbonded component; and
- (iv) subjecting the unbonded component to conditions of elevated temperature and pressure suitable to produce an ultra-hard material.

15.(Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the coherent green state composite material in step (ii) or the layer of step (iii) is consolidated to form a consolidated layer before carrying out step (iv).

16.(Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the binder is removed from the consolidated layer before carrying out step (iv).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tool component including the steps of:

- (i) providing a substrate;
- (ii) providing a coherent green state composite material as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1;
- (iii) placing a layer of the coherent green state composite material on a surface of the substrate;
- (iv) placing a layer of the components for making an ultra-hard material on the layer of composite material to produce an unbonded component; and
- (v) subjecting the unbonded component to conditions of elevated temperature and pressure to produce an ultra-hard material from the components.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14, wherein the cores are provided as granules coated with the components for making the ultra-hard material and the binder.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the granules are further coated with a second coating comprising material selected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, cemented carbides, cemented nitrides, cemented carbonitrides, and mixtures thereof, or the components for making an ultra-hard material of a different grade to that of the first coating.